

The Advocate

Springing Ahead!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Jackie Richardson,
Chief of Staff and Interim Director
Office of the Ombudsman and Administrative Review



Welcome to March!! After weathering the February ice and snow storms across our Commonwealth, I'm sure we are all looking forward to the April showers that will bring May flowers.

As our state's health champions work diligently to distribute and administer the COVID-19 vaccines, there is a sense of hope in the air. Very soon we will see the light shine bright at the end of the tunnel. Soon we will be able to feel safe again and safely interact safely in our communities with family and friends. In the meantime, please continue to wear your mask, wash your hands frequently and practice social distancing. If possible, please assist an elderly or homebound individual in your neighborhood register for a vaccine appointment and arrange transportation. It's so important to protect them from this virus.

On Feb. 27, 2021, Lt. Gov. Coleman announced transportation information will be added to the [kycovid19.ky.gov](https://www.kycovid19.ky.gov) portal to assist Kentuckians with vaccine transportation needs. Gov. Beshear also spoke that same day about the hope that the expected Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine will bring—especially to homebound citizens living in Kentucky's rural areas.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Lisa Lee Williams of Louisville will assume the responsibilities of Executive Director for the Office of the Ombudsman and Administrative Review on March 8, 2021. More information will be provided next month about Ms. Williams. Until then—Keep up the great work and continue to shine!!

Word of the Month - Verdant *adjective*

- (Of countryside) green with grass or other lush vegetation, "verdant valleys"
- Of the bright green color of lush grass, "a deep, verdant green"



Definitions from [Oxford Languages](https://www.oxfordlanguages.com).



Statewide Announcement:

March 1, 2021—Phase 1c COVID vaccines officially begin in Kentucky for persons over 60, essential workers and individuals with serious at-risk health conditions per the CDC.

March 14, 2021. Daylight Savings Time begins.



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Amanda Morris

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Employee spotlight:

Amanda (Mandee) Morris

Mandee graduated from Lindsey Wilson College in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services/Counseling. She started working for the Department for Community Based Services in 2006,



completing investigations for Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services. Mandee joined the QA Branch in 2017, where she reviews CAPTA appeal requests for hearing eligibility and assists citizens with questions.

She lives on a farm in Shelby County. Mandee enjoys spending time with her son, attending his football games and 4H Shooting Sports matches. She also loves camping. Mandee is a member of the Elmburg Baptist Church.



SUBMISSIONS —

Please email your articles to carolyn.vose@ky.gov

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Quality Advancement Report: Richard Dienst, Branch Manager

As noted in our previous edition, the Quality Advancement (“QA”) Branch determines hearing eligibility for a variety of appeals. Many of us are accustomed to reviewing cases with a policy lens. While policy issues may exist, this has little to no impact upon hearing eligibility determination. The determination of hearing eligibility rests entirely upon regulations. For this edition, I wanted to introduce you to the primary regulations that impact our eligibility determination work for the Department for Community Base Services (DCBS):

922 KAR 1:480 Appeal of child abuse and neglect investigative findings. <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/922/001/480.pdf>.

922 KAR 1:320 Service appeals. <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/922/001/320.pdf>.

922 KAR 5:120 Caregiver misconduct registry and appeals. <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/922/005/120.pdf>.

922 KAR 2:260 Child care service appeals. <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/922/002/260.pdf>.

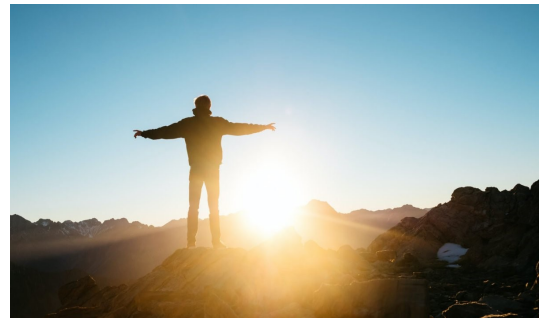
907 KAR 1:563 Medicaid covered services appeals and hearings unrelated to managed care. <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/907/001/563.pdf>.

906 KAR 1:190 Kentucky National Background Check Program (NBCP). <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/906/001/190.pdf> for Office of the Inspector General KARES background check appeals

910 KAR 2:060 Guardianship Trust Fund. <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/910/002/060reg.pdf> for Department for Aging and Independent Living Guardianship Trust Fund appeals .

These regulations determine who is eligible for an administrative hearing, who shall not be eligible for an administrative hearing and required filing timeframes for submitting each appeal request.

Motivate Yourself- Spring into Action!



You'll never change your life until you change something you do daily.—John C. Maxwell

For an inspiring article go to: <https://www.becomingminimalist.com/habits-to-change-your-life/>